

Mirror, mirror . . .

Myrella Roy

With so many questions facing our field of practice these days, a magic mirror hanging on my office wall could prove helpful.

Mirror, mirror, how would you define a pharmacist? During 2004, the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy organized 2 workshops for executive staff of Canadian pharmacy associations and deans of pharmacy of Canada to work synergistically on core issues of common concern. The need for a consensual definition of the pharmacist's role for use by the leadership of the Canadian pharmacy community emerged as the first action item. CSHP has joined a working group charged with drafting a definition of the "ideal" pharmacist, to convey to our many publics the unique role and contributions of the pharmacist within the health care system. How would you capture the essence of the pharmacist's role in 100 words or less?

Mirror, mirror, what impact will the entry-level PharmD have on the practice of pharmacy in Canada? Several Canadian faculties of pharmacy are set to replace the baccalaureate with the doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) degree as their single entry-to-practice program, enrolling the first cohort of students as early as fall 2006. In August 2002, CSHP Council endorsed an information paper on the potential impact of such a change.¹ The paper includes a literature review on changes in pharmacy practice elicited by and societal benefits derived from the entry-level PharmD degree and a summary of the results of a CSHP member survey. The accompanying position statement concluded that CSHP did not support the adoption of the PharmD degree as the entry-level program in Canada.² In preparation for a meeting with the Association of Deans of Pharmacy of Canada on October 4, 2004, CSHP invited comments on the current debate from directors of hospital pharmacy across Canada. The former CSHP Task Force on Entry-Level PharmD was also asked to revisit the issue. In mid-November, CSHP will present the concerns of hospital pharmacy directors related to human and financial resources and the operational

capacity of hospitals to provide more practical education at a symposium entitled "Managing the Change to Entry Level PharmD in Canada", hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy of University of Toronto. CSHP remains committed to collaborating



with all stakeholders to ensure appropriate education of undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy students for the advancement of patient-centred pharmacy practice.

Mirror, mirror, where will CSHP's office be located next spring? With the recruitment of a temporary staff pharmacist and an additional part-time administrative assistant to enhance our advocacy efforts and to better serve our members, CSHP is outgrowing its current office space and is planning a move to a larger location upon its lease expiry at the end of March 2005.

Mirror, mirror, who will win the Stanley Cup this season? Never mind — no contenders.

If you are interested in additional information about any of the aforementioned issues, please contact the CSHP national office (see page 265 for contact information).

References

1. Information paper on the potential impact of implementing an entry-level doctor of pharmacy degree in Canada. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists; 2002 Aug. Available to CSHP members at: http://www.cshp.ca/dms/dmsView/1_39-Info-Potential-Impact.pdf (accessed 2004 Oct 25). Nonmembers may order document from CSHP.
2. Statement on the potential impact of implementing an entry-level doctor of pharmacy degree in Canada. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists; 2002 Aug. Available to CSHP members at: http://www.cshp.ca/dms/dmsView/1_28-Stmt-Potential-Impact.pdf (accessed 2004 Oct 25). Nonmembers may order document from CSHP.

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